Celebrating our 21st Year of International Education

DECEMBER 2007

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>> GRADUATION DINNER >> ORIENTATION >> AND MUCH MORE...
From the Principal’s Desk

By the time you read this edition of the International Newsletter all of the 2007 international students, except the 15-week Bridging program students, will have completed their courses and, in most likelihood, have returned to their home countries to have a relaxing time with their families and friends before commencing their 2008 studies.

It is also likely that the Standard and Fast-Track Foundation students, and the College’s single international student who studied the TEE, will have their results and their university offers before you read this Newsletter. They will probably be preparing excitedly for their entry into the various university courses they have chosen. Based on their academic performance and attitude to study, the staff believe that the 2007 Year 12 international students will gain entry to their chosen university courses and achieve great success in their tertiary studies.

The 2007 Year 12 international students were not only good students, but were a delightful group of young people who have developed independence and maturity that will ensure their future success. They are also a happy group of students as exemplified by their enthusiasm and delight at the wonderful International Graduation Dinner held just prior to the final WAUFP and TEE examinations. I think many of them took to heart my comment to them at Orientation that ‘happy students are successful students’. The College looks forward to hearing of their future success.

I hope that the 18-week, 30-week and 40-week international Bridging students have a relaxing and enjoyable time at home so that they return refreshed and enthused to work hard at their WAUFP or TEE studies in 2008.

Phil Levitzke is now the permanent Manager of the ISO after taking over from David Hults in a relieving capacity for six months. Phil has been an enthusiastic and knowledgeable member of the Tuart College staff for over 15 years. He has great rapport with students as was evident in his relationships with the 2007 international students. He has quickly become aware of the issues faced by international students and continues to devise ways in which he, the ISO and the College can help international students achieve their potential and their goals. In this he has been helped by Peta Parker and Robyn Stevens, the Student Advisors, and Ann Bignell and Dinah Turner, the Support Staff. International students could not be in better hands than those of this dedicated group of staff.

The College is looking forward to welcoming back the 2007 Bridging international students and new international students who will be joining the College in 2008. I am sure that they will continue the outstanding tradition of the over 3000 successful international students who have graduated from Tuart College since 1987.

Congratulations to all international students on the successful completion of their courses in 2007.

Best wishes to you all.

John Anderton
Principal

Tuart Students are Prize Winners at UWA

In the recently released list of UWA Prize Winners for 2006, two students who studied the Western Australian Universities’ Foundation Program (WAUFP) at Tuart College in order to gain university entrance have been acknowledged.

Miss Gong Yi Fei, a student from China, was a Tuart College graduate in 2003. In that year she was the top student in Accounting, Applicable Mathematics and Calculus. She began at UWA in 2004 in the Faculty of Economics and Commerce. In 2006 she was awarded six separate prizes, ranging from the UWA Graduates Association Prize in Commerce to the Institute of Public Administration Australia Prize in Performance Measurement and Evaluation.

Mr Marco Brenna came to Tuart College from Switzerland. He was Tuart’s top Foundation student in 2004, achieving a CPS of 95.8. He is now studying in the Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences at UWA and in 2006 was awarded two prizes, the Westernex Prize in Field Geology and the Peter Harris Prize.

We congratulate Yi Fei and Marco on their continued achievement and success.

John Anderton
Principal
Each year, the College acknowledges outstanding achievement from its local and international students. The whole college population was recognised at the Valedictory Ceremony that was held on Tuesday 30 October. A number of international students were presented with awards for being top of their subject. This is quite an achievement for students who are studying in what is often their second language. Three other international students were also given awards from professional organisations – two from the Institute of Engineers, Australia for earning at least 75% in Applicable Mathematics, Calculus, Chemistry and Physics, and one from the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Australia for being the top student in Accounting.

The international students’ achievement was also celebrated at their Graduation Dinner. All students received a Certificate of Completion in recognition of their participation in one of the Year 12 programs. Many students achieved excellent results throughout the course of the year and it is unfortunate that not all students could receive an award.

**TEE PROGRAM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Place</th>
<th>Student Name: Miss Chen Qi</th>
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<tr>
<td>Country:</td>
<td>PR China</td>
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**FOUNDATION PROGRAM**

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<tr>
<th>1st Place</th>
<th>Student Name: Miss Choo Jin Jin</th>
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<tr>
<td>Country:</td>
<td>East Malaysia (MMS)</td>
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<tr>
<th>3rd Place</th>
<th>Student Name: Mr Jason Loh Jing Ren</th>
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<tr>
<td>Country:</td>
<td>East Malaysia (ABC)</td>
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<tr>
<th>5th Place</th>
<th>Student Name: Miss Loh Wey Mey</th>
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<tr>
<td>Country:</td>
<td>West Malaysia (ASA)</td>
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**SUBJECT AWARD WINNERS**

- **Accounting:** Miss Cai Li Hong
- **Applicable Mathematics:** Miss Choo Jin Jin
- **Calculus:** Miss Choo Jin Jin
- **Chinese (Advanced):** Miss Chen Qi
- **Economics:** Mr Ng Thern Hooi
- **English Language & Australian Cultural Studies:** Miss Melissa Ting Yee
- **Human Biology:** Miss Papanin Putsathit

**INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA, OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

- Miss Choo Jin Jin
- Mr Jason Loh Jing Ren

**INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AUSTRALIA, MOST OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTING AWARD**

- Miss Cai Li Hong
The night of Tuesday 30 October was a night to remember. It was Tuart College’s 21st graduation dinner for international students and so had an extra celebratory feeling. To mark the occasion, a number of overseas agents who have supported the College for many years, were invited to attend. Unfortunately, circumstances prevented some from making the trip to Perth, but we were truly honoured to have Mr Phillip Kuah, Managing Director of Hui & Kuah, Singapore, and Mr Tony Tan, Managing Director of Studylink, Malaysia, join us. Their students were also delighted that they could be present at their graduation.

The evening began with smiles and laughter and light from all the cameras flashing. The graduating students looked fabulous and clearly enjoyed being dressed differently from their ‘College-wear’.

The Guest of Honour was Mr Keith Newton, A/Deputy Director General, Schools, Western Australian Department of Education & Training, who also attended the Scholarship Presentation held earlier in the year. In his thought-provoking address, he encouraged his audience to give more to the world than they take from it. He also reminded the students of what they had achieved during their time at Tuart, as they adapted from one culture to another, from one education system to another, from being looked after by family to looking after themselves.

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia again donated a prize of $250 to the top international student. Dr Norm Hoffman, Chairperson of the Tuart College Advisory Board presented the cheque on behalf of the bank.

Miss Papanin Putsathit gave the valedictory address. Born in Thailand, Papanin studied in Singapore before coming to Tuart College this year. She has been a Tuart Mews resident and has formed friendships with many people from different cultural backgrounds. Her speech touched on social and academic experiences of the year, and was delivered with a wonderful blend of humour and sincerity.

The evening was a memorable one that ended as it began – with smiles, laughter and the lights of the still flashing cameras!
As the year draws to a close it gives me an opportunity to reflect upon the experiences of our international students during 2007. Regardless of when they began their courses, many students had feelings of anxiety and nervousness as they embarked on their orientation programs and then settled into their studies. Slowly but surely, these feelings changed as they became more comfortable with their surroundings and became attuned to new methods of learning and assessment. This process has seen the majority of our students adjust successfully to the rhythm of study and living in Perth, which has culminated in the development of many life skills.

My time in the international office over the past six months has been an uplifting one in many ways. I have been particularly impressed by the way in which such a diverse group of students from a vast array of cultures and educational experiences has been able to adapt to their new learning and living environment. This ability is often reflective of their commitment, along with that of their families and other support groups.

One of the great joys of being involved with a teaching institution is being able to join with its community to celebrate the achievements of its students. My congratulations go to the students who were recognized at both the Valedictory Ceremony and the Graduation Dinner for their attainment of excellence during the year. I would also like to express my great admiration for those students who may not have been award winners, but worked to the best of their abilities and used all their skills to obtain the best marks and grades that they could.

As the Master of Ceremonies for the Graduation Dinner, I was very taken by the camaraderie that was shown by the group as a whole. It was no surprise to me that the majority of students spent a great deal of time recording this special evening with photographs, taking special care to include their friends and teachers. This highlighted that Tuart College does more than teach facts to its student population and that it provides an environment where personal growth and the development of relationships are encouraged. I’m sure these attributes will be valued by our students, their parents and the wider community in the future.

I am happy to report that teachers from our hard working ESL department have spent a brief period of time at the end of the 2007 academic year developing stronger ties with two overseas schools. Ms Jacki Caldwell travelled to Tianjing #21 School in China and Mrs Sandy Taylor visited the Nguyen Dinh Chieu School in Vietnam. The time spent in these schools has allowed both Jacki and Sandy to impart a great deal of their vast knowledge and skill to the teaching departments of the institutions they attended, whilst gaining an insight into the teaching methods that students from these countries are exposed to. The mutual benefit derived from these programs will no doubt help to develop the relationship between Tuart College and these schools. We are indebted to the enormous amount of work that Mrs Li Ping Wilson, Mr Le Vinh Quang, our Principal, Mr John Anderton, Ms Jacki Caldwell, Mrs Sandy Taylor and the administrators of our host schools have invested into these programs to bring about their success.

With close to 50% of our students completing examinations recently comes the realization that they will be moving to a new phase in their life that will be filled with new challenges. I can only hope that they will be able to apply the lessons they have learnt at Tuart College to these challenges, in particular the ability to be independent learners and to be able to think analytically and solve problems. These are skills which should provide them with good grounding for their further academic pursuits as well as their lives in the “real world”.

As I look to the end of the 2007 academic year and into 2008, I must convey my thanks for the support and help that has been provided to me by all the staff, associates and friends of the Tuart College International Office. In closing, I give my best wishes to those students who will be leaving the College to pursue their next goal in life. To those students who will be returning in 2008, have a relaxing holiday and I look forward to welcoming you back for a successful and productive year.

Phil Levitzke
ISO Manager

>> BEING AT TUART IS MORE THAN JUST BEING IN CLASSROOMS

In recent months, Tuart College had an education expo, ECAAS graduations, a Valedictory ceremony, the ELACS classes went on excursions, students celebrated birthdays, past students came to visit and so did the parents of our Fast-Track triplets! The variety keeps Tuart a great place to be!
Some of the highlights of the second part of the year have been the three orientations for new groups of international students. The first was in June when the Fast-Track students came to Perth. Ten of the thirteen students in Fast-Track were able to arrive in Perth in time to attend at least part, if not all, of the orientation. The students are a really interesting group. Most of them come from Indonesia, but there are others from Zambia, Zimbabwe, East Timor and Singapore. Three of the Fast-Track students are triplets, four or five want to study medicine, another three are interested in commerce and at least one intends to study nursing. Some Indonesian parents also joined us and enjoyed seeing a little of Perth. It was also good for their children as it meant they had assistance in completing some tasks such as registering at the Indonesian consul.

The July group had all been in Perth for some months, studying at language schools. Their orientation week was a very varied one in terms of Perth’s weather. Most mornings were quite cold, but on one of the days the temperature rose to 23 and the students were able to take off scarves and jackets and enjoy the sunshine as they strolled around Hillarys Boat Harbour. The next day the scarves and jackets were back on and umbrellas were required as well to get the students from the College to the coach. Fortunately, on the occasions when the students were outside, like walking to dinner in Northbridge or shopping in Fremantle, the rain stayed away.

All but one of the students who came to the College in October had already been in Perth for some months. As with all orientations, most time was spent in the College learning about their program, DIAC regulations and how to be successful. They also went on outings to Karrinyup, Hillarys and Fremantle.

The thing that stands out at all orientations is the friendships that the students form. Within hours it seems that every one has a new friend and someone they feel comfortable talking with, walking with, eating with. Such a start really does make such a positive difference to the study that will follow in the weeks and months to come.
On a cold, wet and windy Sunday morning in August, over 30,000 people participated in the annual City to Surf event. Most were competitors, but some were volunteers who provided support for the competitors. Some of the international students, ably assisted by Sandy Taylor and Judy Smith who both teach ESL at Tuart College, either ran and/or walked the 12 kilometres from central Perth to City Beach or volunteered to hand out water to the runners at drink stations in Kings Park.

It was an early start for all concerned. The students – runners and helpers – met at Tuart Mews at 6.00am to be taken to their various starting points. The helpers had to battle the wind as they set out hundreds of paper cups and filled them with water ready to hand to the runners. The Tuart runners were amongst the thousands who gathered in Perth city. They were fascinated to see the variety of people who entered – some young and some old, some seriously competitive and some just having fun. Some even dressed up in brightly coloured outfits and wigs.

Nicholas Foo Tzie Phin was the fastest Tuart entrant, completing the distance in 67 minutes. The other Tuart entrants, Ega Wiratama, Ng Thern Hooi, Brandon Tann, Cheng Ho Kan (Louis), Li Hiu Fung (Oscar) and Judy Smith, all finished the event within the allocated time and all received medals to recognise their achievement. Most felt the effects of the run in their legs and/or feet the next day – and some for a few days after that as well. However, despite losing sleep, getting wet and suffering the after-effects of a distance run, all enjoyed the experience and being part of an annual Perth event.